



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 137-2005

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: May 27, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge".

Subject: BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

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The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with an update describing some of the areas the Administration has recently been focusing on:

Major Events Plan (MEP) - Staff from throughout the City continued to meet to finalize preparations for the busy Memorial Day holiday weekend. A detailed report of the City's efforts was presented to the Commission at the May 18 City Commission meeting. Staff from Police, Fire, Sanitation, Code Compliance, Parking and a number of other departments will be available throughout the holiday weekend to provide the necessary services to our residents and visitors.

FY 2005/06 Budget - Staff from the Office of Budget and Performance Improvement (OBPI) and I continue to meet with representatives from all City Departments to discuss and prepare for the FY 2005/06 budget. An update on the budget will be presented to the Mayor and Commission at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 8. Staff and I will continue to focus on the FY 2005/06 budget preparations throughout the next several weeks.

Miami Beach Community Survey - Results were shared with you at the May 20 City Commission Retreat. The Mayor and I will meet with representatives from the media on June 2 to share survey results. In addition, staff is working on a roll-out plan to share the survey results with residents and members of the business community and community organizations.

Film and Print - Staff from the City's Film Office and I met with representatives from the "Miami Vice" feature film to discuss ongoing issue before the film officially begins its production in June. The film's producer, Michael Mann, and several production teams have been on Miami Beach filming scenes through before the production officially starts.

Labor Relations - An Executive Session was held on May 25 to share details of the impasse hearings between the City and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and discuss next steps.

Growth Management – Meetings took place with each of you individually to discuss various growth management strategies prior to the Commission Workshop which took place on May 25.

Emergency / Hurricane Preparedness – Staff continues to work on and update the City's emergency / hurricane preparedness plans. A "reverse 911" call will go out to all residents beginning on May 31 to advise of the upcoming hurricane season and provide information on how to better prepare. In addition, two hurricane fairs are planned to provide residents with information that will help them prepare. The hurricane fair in South Beach will be on Sunday, June 5 on Lincoln Road and the hurricane fair in North Beach will be on Saturday, June 11 on Normandy Circle.

Vote Miami Beach – The City's voter registration efforts continue with the Vote Miami Beach initiative which provides discounts to all registered Miami Beach voters at local restaurants and merchants throughout the City. Voter registration drives will be held on the following Saturdays (June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 1), from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations: Sushi Siam, 647 Lincoln Road, Wild Oats, 1020 Alton Road, Walgreens Drug Store at 41st Street & Pine Tree Drive and Walgreens Drug Store at 67 Street & Collins Avenue.

Organizational Development – Training on our new enhanced customer service standards continue to take place with staff from throughout the City. The goal of the training is to ensure that all employees receive the proper training and resources to be able to deliver outstanding customer service. Staff continues to work with representatives from Florida International University and Miami Dade College to provide a greater offering of courses in the City for employees and residents in the fall semester which begins in August. In addition, recruitment efforts are underway for various key positions within the Administration, including the Assistant City Manager, Building Director, Code Compliance Director and Assistant Parking Director.

Miami International Book Fair / Miami International Film Festival – Representatives from the Administration met with staff from Miami Dade College which produces the Book Fair and the Film Festival to discuss ways in which the City can further partner on these important community / cultural events and ensure that elements of each of these events take place on Miami Beach.

North Beach Quality of Life Funds – Staff and I met with representatives from the North Beach Development Corporation to discuss the allocation of quality of life funds in North Beach.

Wolfsonian Museum – I met with representatives from the Wolfsonian Museum and Florida International University (FIU) to discuss G.O. Bond related issues that affect the museum.

Public Safety – Staff from the Police and Fire Departments, along with Miami Beach Senior High School and Tremont/Beach Towing, hosted the 8th annual “Cheat the Reaper” Teen Anti-DUI Program on May 20. The purpose of this program is to remind students about the grave consequences involved with drinking/drug use and driving by simulating a live DUI car crash involving teenagers that will result in death. Nearly 500 students from Miami Beach Senior High School participated.

Parks and Recreation – Over 400 people attended the second “Movie in the Park” on Saturday, May 21 at Flamingo Park. The film shown was *Son of the Mask*, a family-friendly movie.

International Visitor Program – Staff from the City Attorney’s Office and my Office met with Miguel Landeros, Advisor to the President of the Chamber of Deputies in Chile, on May 26 to discuss the City of Miami Beach’s charter and administrative composition. This visit was coordinated by the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program which brings leaders from around the world to the U.S. to assist international governments who are interested in learning from the U.S.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

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